whom Mr. Garvin has predicted 'dazzling promotion', gready applauded by Left-Wingers; three soon to take, perhaps already meditating, a surprising step ?

A Labour Government was in office for the second time, the wonder that it should be in office at all having quite worn off, Mr. James Brown neither more nor less interesting than any other Lord High Commissioner of the Church of Scotland,[19] and Cabinet Ministers who had been dreaded by their opponents as irresponsible revolutionaries and praised by their supporters as heroic saviours of a derelict social order, turning out in practice to be only a rather more than usually ineffectual Government

Greatly daring, they had considered whether they might not break with tradition and eschew Court dress,[20] but had decided on the advice of their leader that to do so would be unwise.

Even the Commissioner of Public Works, Mr. Lansbury, yielded to the extent of consenting to wear a dinner-jacket, his mutton-chop whiskers and jovial features occasionally appearing above an expanse of white dress-shirt.

Then, looking round the Opposition, are seen those now so rooted in office that it seems inconceivable there should even have been interludes when they were not Cabinet Ministers—

Mr. Baldwin whose triumphant career was to terminate in well-

[19] This, the only authentically proletarian appointment, was much pub- *
licised. Mr. Brown's Lanarkshire cottage often photographed side by side with. Holyrood Palace, and he and his wife shown receiving lords and ladies, the lack of embarrassment on the part of all concerned being stressed. As the post was a purely ceremonial one, no one minded, and the

picturesqueness
of the situation made an immediate appeal. It recalls Trotsky's account of
how six factory workers and six peasants were included in the delegation to
Brest-Litovsk, but took no part in the negotiations. They were allowed
to attend ceremonial functions, and partake of the refreshments offered.

[20] According to the late MacNeill "Weir, M.P., who was for eight years
MacDonald's Private Parliamentary Secretary, MacDonald said that at his
first interview with King George V on becoming Labour Premier, the
question of whether members of the new Government would 'conform to
the etiquette of the Court and wear the appropriate dress. . . filled the mind
of the King to the exclusion of all else/